

February 24, 2009

**Re: Support for S.B. 448
Sound Barriers along state highways in Fairfield County**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Since being notified of this public hearing last Thursday I have spent considerable time speaking with my neighbors about the hardships of living adjacent to the I-95 without the benefit of a noise barrier. The negative experiences they shared with me are hardly surprising. You need only walk through a Fairfield County neighborhood lacking a sound barrier to sample vehicular rumbling so unceasing that the notion of relaxation seems an absurd fantasy.

Countless studies have proven the ill effects from highway noise pollution, including; hearing impairment, hypertension, ischemic heart disease, annoyance, sleep disturbance and decreased school performance. Elevated noise levels also can create stress, increase workplace accident rates, and stimulate aggression and other anti-social behaviors.

The New York Times has reported that as of 1994 there were 35 miles of noise barriers in CT, near the time that state funding was frozen for such projects. I'm sure we would all agree that since 1994 the density of traffic on our highways has increased considerably. The quality of life in my neighborhood and other such unprotected communities should not be less than that of someone else in another area where walls have been erected.

State Senator William Nickerson (now retired) informed me that in 2007 the General Assembly adopted a provision reopening the highway sound barrier construction program by adding it to the so-called Tier One project list, which the Dept of Transportation is required to build. However, no timetable for commencing barrier construction was provided in the bill. This is your opportunity to implement and more completely define and fund this important provision.

Please help provide much needed relief to your constituents from the ever-increasing traffic noise of I-95 through construction of necessary sound barriers. Join my fellow citizens and me in supporting S.B. No. 448.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aura Stutzman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Aura Stutzman

109 Byram Shore Rd., Greenwich

aurasw@gmail.com

office: 203-542-5717

cell: 310-595-5884